



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **Recreation Commission Minutes -01/12/2010**

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

*Approved*

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, January 12, 2010.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg and Don Vitters. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: David Warner, Jeanne Leary, Michele Durocher and Josie Burton.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the December 08, 2009 minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg, and approved 3-0.

### **Summer Street Playground Design Review**

Mr. Warner reviewed the final plans for the playground and multigenerational area with the Commission members. Mr. Warner reviewed the type of pathway material being used and explained that it would look like stonedust but would meet all accessible requirements. The Commission asked that this material also be used around the table and chairs.

Mr. Connelly explained that with the input from Mr. Warner a lighting engineer was being hired to assist with the lighting design.

Mr. Warner stated that the lighting design would give more details regarding the layout and cost estimates. Mr. Connelly stated that upon receiving this information alternate funding sources could be identified if there were no remaining funds available in the main project.

Ms. Mayer asked if solar could be investigated. Mr. Warner stated his initial concerns with the amount of natural light available in the area to allow solar but suggested the lighting engineer could investigate the possibility.

In reviewing the cost savings by the removal of some fencing, Mr. Warner estimated the fitness components would fit into the base budget. Ms. Mayer asked that Mr. Warner investigate the potential to have handicap accessible fitness components as well.

Mr. Warner stated that the specific eight tot pieces have yet to be determined but options will be given to the Commission for feedback prior to final specification.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the final design subject to the final approval by Mr. Connelly of the eight tot components, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0.

### **Thorndike Parking Lot Bid Package and Schedule Review**

Mr. Warner reviewed the Thorndike Field project and the draft bid package. Mr. Warner stated the bid would be advertised in early February with a March 3<sup>rd</sup> bid opening date. Mr. Connelly reviewed the field schedules with the Commission to give them an understanding of how the field would be impacted. Mr. Connelly stated that the intention was to close the field in July and August during construction. Mr. Warner stated it is the intent to begin the project in late June and have it completed by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Mayer asked if Mr. Connelly would coordinate the Conservation Commission to make sure reports from the Town Engineer would suffice their reporting requirements. Mr. Connelly will check with Ms. Beckwith.

### **Spy Pond Bench Donation Approval**

Mr. Connelly reviewed the requested language from the family for the Eric Kurtz dedicated bench at Spy Pond Park. Mr. Connelly reminded the Commission that the bench was already approved and it would be for three 8-year terms. Mr. Connelly reviewed the language provided to him by Mr. Rubinstein:

In Memory of Eric W. Kurtz 1936-2009  
“Perhaps the truth depends on a walk around the lake.”  
-Wallace Stevens

The Commission discussed removing the “In Memory of” and leaving the rest as requested. Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the language as amended by the Commission, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 3-0.

### **Film Production Policy Amendment**

Mr. Connelly reviewed the amended version of the Film Production Policy. Mr. Connelly recommended the following change in language:

*There is a \$25 non-refundable application fee payable to "The Town of Arlington". Additional permitting fees may be assessed by the Park Commission and the amount of those fees determined based on the size and scope of the project.*

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0.

### **Special Event Approvals**

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Mr. Connelly indicated that there were no requests at this time.

### **Capital Improvement Update**

Thorndike Parking - Review covered in Mr. Warner's presentation

Summer Street Playground – Review covered in Mr. Warner's presentation

Summer Street Fencing and Pavement Removal – Mr. Connelly reviewed the current plan by DPW to remove the asphalt area and connect the sidewalk and curbing. Mr. Connelly did receive some phone calls from abutters frustrated with the decision. Mr. Connelly reviewed his discussion with Town Counsel and legality of parking in land designated open space regardless of the type of surfacing. The Commission discussed the issue and agreed with the current course of action.

North Union Basketball Court – Mr. Connelly stated that the Town Manager has asked that this project be on hold until some more information is available for the Thompson School renovation project. The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to discuss with the Town Manager about keeping the Commission informed of any plans to use current parkland. Mr. Connelly will discuss this with the Town Manager.

Request for additional playground fencing for Magnolia, Crosby and Parallel – Tabled until a later meeting

### **Rink and Recreation Update**

Robbins Farm Sledding – The Commission discussed the issue of signage at the park and determined that no new signage is necessary.

### **Park Policies & Committee Updates**

Amplification System – Ms. Mayer explained that this was going to be discussed with the users at the Field User Meeting in February.

Ms. Leary stated that she and the neighbors want the lights at Buck Field to be placed on a timer to go off automatically at 9:45PM with the area to be vacated by 10 PM. Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly explained that there was a lot to consider including some safety concerns. Ms. Mayer stated that the Commission and Mr. Connelly have had and would continue to have discussions with youth baseball and all of the user groups that utilize lights in Town to try to balance acceptable use and overuse. It was noted that this past spring youth baseball had reduced its usage of lights at Buck Field by one night per week. Ms. Leary indicated that her organization would be bringing their request to Town Hall.

Portable Restrooms – Mr. Connelly and Ms. Rothenberg indicated that the group had not met in some time but would be getting together shortly to review the coming season and that the accessibility issue would be addressed at this time.

Dog Park Task Force – Ms. Mayer stated that a task force has been formed to make a recommendation for fenced off-leash areas and that the first meeting of the task force would take place on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Other**

Ms. Leary asked about the banners on the fence at Buck Field. Ms. Mayer asked again that the signs be removed from the Buck Field backstop that should have been removed last summer. Mr. Connelly apologized for the oversight and will contact DPW.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation